voluminous produce in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, opening of additional platform in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka and for assistance in modernisation of curing practices in barns.

(c) The Tobacco Board has reported that the estimated production of tobacco in Andhra Pradesh is 132-50 Million Kgs. against an authorised crop of 83.08 Million Kgs. and in Karnataka the estimated production has been 36.00 Million Kgs. and the authorised crop has been 29.50 Million Kgs. The average prices; fetched by the tobacco farmers in 1996-97 as on 4th March, 1997 have been Rs. 53.71 per Kg. and Rs. 38.43 per Kg. in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh auctions respectively, and these are much higher than the Minimum Guaranteed Price (MGP) agreed to by the traders of the respective States. Some of the steps taken to help the tobacco farmers are:-

(i) Opening of 3 additional auction platform in Andhra Pradesh to facilitate the growers to sell their produce early.

(ii) Persuading the Indian Tobacco Association, Exporters, manufacturers and other Traders to participate actively in the auctions to absorb the tobacco corp produced.

(iii) Negotiating with tobacco trade to declare a Minimum Guarantee price (MGP) for tobacco purchase which is higher than the Minimum Support Price (MSP) announced by the Government.

(iv) Assisting the tobacco trade in obtaining larger quantum of credit from the financial institutions for making purchases of tobacco.

(v) Participating in trade fairs and exhibitions abroad and arranging buyer-seller meet to enhance tobacco exports.

(vi) Providing financial assistance for energy saving roof insulation of barn.

(vii) Supplying tarpaulines for protection of cured tobacco

Production of Tea in Unauthorised Tea Gardens of West Bengal

3183. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that inferior quality of tea being produced in a number of unauthorised tea gardens of West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check on the quality of tea being produced by these unauthorised tea gardens so that the name of our country is not defamed in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) No complaint relating to production of inferior quality tea in unauthorised tea estates in West Bengal has been received by the Tea Board.

(b) Does not arise.

District Poverty initiative Project

3184 : SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO. Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the District Poverty Initiative Project is being launched in some districts of the selective States :

(b) whether the World Bank has identified such districts for providing loan to implement the programmes;

(c) if so, the basis on which those districts have been selected either by the Central Government or the World Bank, State-wise; and

(d) the reasons for not selecting any district from Orissa for this purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. District Poverty Initiatives Project with possible World Bank assistance is in its initial stage of preparation in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and West Bengal. The project aims to alleviate poverty and create conditions for sustainable development and building local institutional capacity for the benefit of the SC, ST and tribal population of the selected districts. The basis for the selection of districts by the State Governments was poverty and social development criteria and the presence of functioning groups to facilitate project implementation in the districts.

(d) No such proposal was received from the Government of Orissa.

[Translation]

Export of Carpets

3185 : SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign exchange earned from the exports of cotton and woollen carpets separately during 1994-95 and 1995-96 alongwith the countries to which these carpets were exported;

(b) whether the raw material was imported for weaving carpets during 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of carpets for the welfare of carpet weavers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The foreign exchange earned from the exports of cotton and woollen carpet during 1994-95 and 1995-96 is as under:

Foreign exchange earned (in US $ Millions)

Item	1994-95	1995
Cotton Carpets	25.92	31.25
Woollen Carpets	507.36	515.00

These carpets are mainly exported to Germany, Australia, Canada, France, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Netherlands, USA, UK, Japan etc.

(b) and (c) During the year 1994-95 and 1995-96, the raw wool imported for carpet weaving is estimated to be 20 and 7 million Kgs. respectively. However, for weaving of cotton carpets, no raw material has been imported.

(d) Steps taken by the Government include:

(i) Import of raw wool at concessional rate of duty;

(ii) Massive training of carpet weavers for upgradation of skill;

(iii) Opening of schools for non-formal education of children of woaver's families;

(iv) Medical facilities for Health care for carpet weavers;

(v) Preshipment and postshipment credit facilities for export;

(vi) Duty draw back @ 8.5% of FOB value;

(vii) Participation in international fairs abroad;

(viii) Organisation of Carpet Expo in India to benefit small exporters;

(ix) Buyer-Seller-Meets in non-traditional countries for exposure of Indian carpets.

Malegam Comittee

3186. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which Malegam Committee was constituted by the Union Government and report of the Committee received by the Government;

(b) the details of the recommendations/suggestions made by the Malegam Committee;

(c) the number of recommendations of the Committee implemented or proposed to be implemented by the Union Government, so far; and

(d) the reasons for delay in implementing the remaining recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) constituted an expert committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Y.H. Malegam in March, 1995 to make recommendations to improve the disclosure standards in the offer documents by companies. The Committee submitted its report on June 29, 1995 to SEBI.

(b) The major recommendations of the Malegam Committee are :-

(i) issuers should provide in their offer documents statement of assets and liabilities after deducting revaluation reserves, all adjustments, rectifications etc.;

(ii) income from main activity and other activities undertaken by the company during the year should be clearly indicated;

(iii) financials of the issuer company alongwith financials of five listed companies promoted by the same promoter should be disclosed;

(iv) justification of the issue price in terms of financial ratios should be disclosed;

(v) financial projection could be made only by specified companies under specified conditions; and

(vi) the offer document should indicate the shareholding of top ten shareholders of the company and also disclose details of transactions of the promoters and the promoter group in the shares of the company during six months preceding the filling of the offer document.

(c) and (d) The major recommendations have already been implemented by SEBI and necessary circulars were issued between September, 1995 and March, 1996.

[English]

Major and Medium Scale Public Sector Units

3187. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the number of a major and medium scale public sector units working in each State/ Union Territory alongwith capital investment as also the employment potential ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): As on 31.3.95, there were 245 Central PSUs including enterprises under construction in the country. All these PSUs fall under major and medium scale industries. Details showing State/Union Territory-wise list of these PSUs, PSU-wise investment in terms of equity and loans and employment are given in Appendix-III, Statement No. 16 and 28 respectively of Volume-I of Public Enterprises Survey 1994-95 laid in both Houses of Parliament on 19.7.96.

Lending Norms

3188 : SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether State Bank of India exposure to some Public Sector Undertakings was much above the exposure